



Commander's COVID-19 update

CNFK and families,

I will be holding a CNFK/CNRK Facebook Live town hall this Wednesday evening, March 25, at 1900 to present one policy released this weekend by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R) and one impending policy to be released by USFK.

The first is that USD P&R has approved an "authorized departure" of Department of Defense (DoD) eligible family members and DOD civilian employees in foreign areas who have determined that they are at higher risk of a poor health outcome if exposed to COVID-19. There are obviously other parts of the world that are at the opposite end of the spectrum from where we are in ROK with regard to COVID-19 and are more the target audience for this authorization. But the fact is, it is issued for worldwide application, and I want to go over with you what it means for our CNFK community. There are many considerations related to this approval, and the Navy's and USFK's implementation of process to support considering and processing requests under this authorization are just being developed.

The second relates to discussing and outlining factors that relate to considerations and requirements for any travel into ROK—specifically for dependents and family coming to (coming back to) ROK. While all countries outside the US fall under a current Department of State international travel advisory notification of Level 4 (Do not travel), USFK is looking ahead to finalize policy that will ensure that protecting the force is foremost as we see the eventual re-establishment of international travel. On Wednesday, I'll cover where we are with both of these policies and be available to take any questions that you have on these or any other items of interest.

ROK continues on a good trend with regard to daily new COVID-19 cases—especially when combined with the number of recovered and released COVID-19 patients. We are moving in the right direction, but we need to really maintain intense vigilance—this is a situation that requires great appreciation by all of the fact that our health protection considerations that have made us so successful in ROK are the new normal for the foreseeable future. They work!

Keep your friends and families at home motivated and informed with the knowledge and experience you have learned, developed, and earned over the past six weeks: pass on your health protection practices and ensure that they recognize the level of personal attention and responsibility necessary to wage a successful campaign against COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Buzz

RDML Buzz Donnelly

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea

#KillTheVirus
